

## Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 /055 W  
-----018215 121056Z /21

R 120955Z JUL 77  
FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4125  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L BANGKOK 15259

E.O. 11652: GDS  
TAGS: PFOR, TH, US, UK  
SUBJ: POSSIBLE RE-ACTIVATION OF THE FREE THAI MOVEMENT IN  
ENGLAND

REF: BANGKOK 10999

1. IN CONVERSATION WITH THE DEPARTING CULTURAL ATTACHE  
LAST WEEK PRINCE PIYA RANGSIT ( A SECOND COUSIN OF BOTH  
KING AND QUEEN) COMMENTED THAT, DURING A RECENT VISIT  
TO LONDON HE HAD LEARNED THAT THERE IS SERIOUS CONSIDER-  
ATION BEING GIVEN BY THAI RESIDENTS IN LONDON TO THE  
REACTIVATION OF THE FREE THAI MOVEMENT. THE IDEA IS  
REPORTEDLY TO PROVIDE AN ORGANIZED FRAMEWORK FOR  
ACTIVITIES IN OPPOSITION TO THE PRESENT ROYAL THAI  
GOVERNMENT THAT EMERGED FROM THE MILITARY TAKEOVER OF  
OCT 6, 1976.

2. (THE FREE THAI MOVEMENT WAS ESTABLISHED IN  
WASHINGTON IN DECEMBER, 1941, BY SENI PRAMOT, THEN  
THAI MINISTER TO THE U.S., AS A FOCUS FOR ACTIVITY BY  
THAI RESIDENT ABROAD, IN OPPOSITION TO THE JAPANESE AND  
TO THE THEN PRO-JAPANESE RTG HEADED BY PHIBUN. THE MOVE-  
MENT SPREAD ULTIMATELY TO THE U.K. AND TO THAILAND. MEMEBERS  
OF THE FREE THAI MOVEMENT RENOUNCED PERSONAL POLITICAL  
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AMBITIONS IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD. THE MOVEMENT WAS  
DISSOLVED IN 1945.)

3. PRINCE RANGSIT INDICATED THAT DR. PUI UNPHAKON WOULD  
BE ACTIVE IN A REVITALIZED FREE THAI MOVEMENT, AS WOULD  
M.R. SAISAWAT SAWADIWAT THOMPSON (A THAI WOMAN BELONGING  
TO A PROMINENT BANGKOK FAMILY WHO MARRIED TO A BRITISH

SUBJECT) AND SULAK SIRARAT, A WELL-KNOWN THAI INTELLECTUAL WHO IS SCHEDULED TO TEACH AT CORNELL UNIVERSITY THIS FALL.

4. FROM THE THAI FIGURES MENTIONED ABOVE, A REVITALIZATION OF THE FREE THAI MOVEMENT WOULD LOGICALLY BE AN OFFSHOOT OF THE THAI FORUM GROUP IN ENGLAND, WHICH HAS BEGUN PUBLISHING A PERIODICAL ON THAILAND, IN THE THAI LANGUAGE, AIMED AT STUDENTS (REFTEL). UNFORTUNATELY, SUCH A MOVEMENT, IN TODAY' S WORLD, WOULD BE OPEN TO COMMUNIST INFILTRATION AND MANIPULATION, PARTICULARLY AS DR. PUAI AND SULAK SIWARAT HAVE SPOKEN OF THE NEED FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF A COMMON FRONT AGAINST THE PRESENT RTG. A COMMON FRONT OF THIS KIND WOULD INEVITABLY INVOLVE PARTICIPATION OF THE COMMUNIST PARTY OF THAILAND, EITHER DIRECTLY OR INDIRECTLY.  
WHITEHOUSE

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** GS  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Subject:** POSSIBLE RE-ACTIVATION OF THE FREE THAI MOVEMENT IN ENGLAND  
**TAGS:** PFOR, TH, US, UK, (PUAI UNGPHAKON), (THOMPSON, SAISAWAT SAWADIWAT), (SULAK SIRATAT)  
**To:** STATE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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